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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

October 10, 2008

Amy Guise  
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1715  
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Attn: Christopher Spaur,

RE: Atlantic Coast of Maryland Shoreline Protection Project  
Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for (FSEIS)  
General Reevaluation Study:  
Borrow Sources for 2010 - 2044

Dear Ms Guise:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced Final SEIS for the Atlantic Coast of Maryland Shoreline Protection Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policies Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The FSEIS evaluates impacts of proposed dredging of several new offshore shoals to provide sand for the project from 2010 to 2044.


It has been determined that between 6,800,000 and 15,000,000 cubic yards of sand would be needed through 2044. Offshore shoals are the best sources since they contain large quantities of suitable sand that can be cost-effectively obtained. Three shoals in Federal water were recommended: Weaver Shoal, Isle of Wight Shoal and Shoal "A". Suitable sand was also identified at Shoal "B" however that shoal is currently an important fishing ground and will not be utilized unless future evaluations find the relative value as a fishing ground has substantially declined.

Dredging would be conducted following guidelines to minimize long-term impacts to the offshore shoals. Guidelines were formulated in coordination with resource agency personnel and academic experts. The project can be adjusted at anytime if conditions change, such as an increase in fish habitat to warrant a re-evaluation of the borrow plan. Resource agencies will be consulted prior to each dredging cycle.



EPA has no further comments to provide for this document. We look forward to continued coordination on this project in the future. If you have any questions regarding our comments please contact Jamie Davis at 215-814-5569 or by email at [davis.jamie@epa.gov](mailto:davis.jamie@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

  
for William Arguto

NEPA Team Leader  
Office of Environmental Programs

